

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON X, THIRD QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, SEPT. 2.

Text of the Lesson, Luke x, 1-11, 17-20—Memory Verses, 2-6—Golden Text, Luke x, 2—Commentary Prepared by the Rev. D. M. Secans.

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1. "After these things." If these words refer to the events of the previous chapter, the talk of the twelve about who should be the greatest (verse 46), John forbidding a man to cast out demons because he did not go along with them, and John and James desiring to burn up a village because the people would not receive Christ are very suggestive in the light of an additional seventy being now sent out. The twelve were chosen not to monopolize the gifts of God, but to be humble channels of blessing to others; and the same Lord who chose them now appoints other seventy also. He is saying to each one of His redeemed, "I have chosen you and ordained (appointed or placed) you that you should bring forth fruit (John xv, 16).

2. The harvest is always great and the laborers are few, and the cry is ever coming from heaven, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" while but few respond, "Here am I; send me" (Isa. vi, 8). In the dark days of Ahab and Jezebel there was one thing that Elijah could do, as he thought of himself as the only one on earth for God—he could pray; and he did pray the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man (Jas. v, 16, 17). We cannot pray honestly the prayer of this verse unless we are willing that God should send us.

3. "Behold, I send you forth." Compare John xvii, 18; xx, 21, and see how He sends us as the Father sent Him. It was His great strength and constant comfort that the Father sent Him. See John iv, 34; v, 36, 37, 38, and 30 other places in John's gospel. We may have the constant consciousness that we are ambassadors for Christ here in Christ's stead (II Cor. v, 20), but if we are willing to be wholly for Him we shall soon find that we are lambs among wolves (Acts xx, 29; John xvi, 33). Wolves recognize no rights of lambs; human wisdom is not sufficient for this; but He, the Lamb of God, is our wisdom (I Cor. i, 24, 30).

4-7. Unnumbered, whole hearted, single eyed, self denying, the Lord's messengers with the Lord's message—thus they went forth. Laborers with God, dwelling with Him, for His work, willing and obedient, will surely be provided for; the manager will surely see to all the need (Luke xxii, 35; Phil. iv, 19; Ps. lxxiv, 11; Rom. viii, 32). He who said "The laborer is worthy of his hire," not only in this passage, but elsewhere by His spirit through His servant (I Tim. v, 18), will be sure to see that His laborers get their hire; so the laborers need have no care about that. "Your Heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of these things" (Math. vi, 32) is enough to quiet any trustful laborer. Those who are sent by the God of Peace and the Prince of Peace are to preach peace by Jesus Christ (Acts x, 36). He made peace by the blood of His cross, and all who truly receive Him, being justified by faith, have peace with God (Col. i, 20; Rom. v, 1); it is the privilege of all such to enjoy the peace of God (Phil. iv, 6, 7) and then to bear it in His name to all who will receive Him.

8, 9. When received by any people, they were to manifest the Spirit of their Master, who came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and they were to be easily satisfied in reference to the food for the body, their orders being "Eat such things as are set before you," or as in I Cor. x, 27, "Whatsoever is set before you eat, asking no question for conscience sake." If some people who think they cannot eat this or that would just trust the Lord to give them an appetite for what is set before them, they might be surprised at His gracious dealings in this matter. Like the twelve, they were to heal the sick and preach the kingdom (Math. x, 7, 8). He sent them, they went in His name, and He wrought through them.

10, 11. If any would not receive them, they were just to depart, only assuring the people thus rejecting them that they were not rejecting them only, but the kingdom of God, which they represented, and the King who sent them (verse 10). In the kingdom, when it comes, there will be no unforgiveness and no sickness (Isa. xxxiii, 24), but God shall be all in all, and His will done on earth as in heaven (I Cor. xv, 28; Luke xi, 2). In this age, while we are waiting for the coming of the kingdom and preaching the gospel everywhere that His church may be gathered out of all nations, the missionary who goes with healing for the body seems to have the greatest openings for the gospel message.

17. They return to Him to tell Him all they had done and taught, as was the custom of the apostles (Mark vi, 30) and as we should always do; here for Him, dwelling with Him for His work, going as He sends us, saying what He tells us and telling all to Him. They seem to have been surprised that evil spirits should have been subject to them, but they joyfully acknowledged that the power of His name did it all.

18. Is He in this saying looking back to the time when Satan was cast out of heaven to the air or onward to the time when he shall fall from the air to the earth and to the pit (Isa. xiv, 12-15; Rev. xii, 12; xx, 2, 3), or is He gently warning them against pride? Perhaps it is as if He said to them, "What you have seen of My power over the wicked one foreshadows the time when he shall be completely overthrown."

19. "Behold, I give you power over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you." See an illustration in Acts xviii, 5. Then see Isa. xliii, 2, and take Daniel's friends as an illustration. We know that God does not permit trial and suffering and death to come to His people, but as in the morning when Daniel came out of the lion's den there was no manner of hurt found upon him because he believed in his God (Dan. vi, 23), so shall it be in the resurrection morning; for then it shall be seen that no real evil has ever befallen a true child of God, and we shall be like our Lord even as to our bodies (Phil. iii, 21).

20. To know that our names are written in heaven is a greater cause of rejoicing than to be able to cast out evil spirits. Our Lord said that no greater prophet than John the Baptist was ever born of woman, and Gabriel said that John would be great in the sight of the Lord, yet John the Baptist wrought no miracle (Luke vii, 28; i, 15; John x, 41).

## CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

Topic For the Week Beginning Sept. 2—Comment by Rev. S. H. Doyle.

Topic.—Seek souls.—Luke xv, 1-10.

The parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin, which form our study, were spoken by Christ as a result of criticism against Himself for associating with publicans and sinners. "The Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners and eateth with them." In answer to this charge Christ pointed out by these parables that He came to seek and to find lost souls. Seeking souls was Christ's mission on earth. Seeking souls is the mission of every Christian and of every Christian church. Christ is our example and our inspiration in this as in all other respects.

1. The soul should be sought because it is lost. It was a lost sheep and a lost coin that were sought. Had their owners not realized that they were lost they never would have sought them; hence before we will be earnest soul seekers we must realize that the soul is lost. It is lost if unsaved through Christ—lost in sin, lost to God, lost to heaven, lost to eternal life! But many do not realize it. Many minimize sin. They look upon it as a weakness, a defect, but not of a serious character. They do not realize that it is a transgression of God's law, punishable by the eternal death of the soul. Let us keep this clearly in mind. Unsaved souls are lost souls. This should inspire us to fidelity in seeking them.

2. The soul should be sought because it is valuable. The lost sheep and the lost coin were valuable; hence they were sought. The soul is valuable, transcendentally so, above sheep, coins or all the world. He who knows the bliss of heaven and the pangs of hell has estimated the value of the soul as greater than that of the whole world. If a sheep, a coin, are diligently sought because of their value, how much more the soul should be sought because of its value!

3. The soul should be sought diligently and persistently. The shepherd sought the sheep until he found it. There were difficulties and hardships in the way, but these did not discourage him. His efforts ceased only when they had been crowned with success. In such a spirit we should seek souls—until we find them. The search should never be abandoned until success has been accomplished. It may require months—years, even years—of patient toils and labors, prayers and tears, but still we should persevere. It was a long way from heaven to Calvary and

a hard way, yet Christ trod it that souls might be sought and saved. Can the servant do less than his Lord?

4. There is joy in soul seeking and soul finding. There is joy in soul seeking. Soul seeking may become a passion if heartily entered into, upon which our own souls feed and live. But here at least possession is infinitely better than pursuit. If joy in seeking, what rapturous joy in finding and what joy in being found! The seeker rejoices, the sought rejoices, friends rejoice, the angels of God rejoice, the Master rejoices, the Father rejoices. What a wave of joy is started when a soul is sought and found! Have you ever experienced this joy? If not, seek in Christ a lost soul until you find it.

THE PRAYER MEETING.  
Arrange a special programme, studying "Christ as a soul seeker." Have prepared papers or address and "The Ninety and Nine" sung as a solo.

BIBLE READINGS.  
Dan. xii, 3; Math. iv, 17-20; John iii, 16; Acts ii, 37-47; iii, 1-10; viii, 20-40; Rom. xi, 13, 14; I Cor. vii, 16; I Tim. iv, 16; Jas. v, 20.

## OUR COLORED CITIZENS.

The public school will begin Monday morning, September 3, 1900. Parents, please send your children on time, at 8 o'clock a. m. The same teachers have been employed for this term, and we hope they shall be able to do us the best of service.

WILLIAM HINES,  
Chairman of Trustees.

## ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD.

Of Interest to Stockholders—Free Transportation to Attend the Annual Meeting at Chicago.

The Board of Directors of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, at a meeting held July 18, 1900, adopted the following preamble and resolution:

Upon the recommendation of the President, the resolution adopted July 21, 1897, authorizing the free transportation of stockholders over the Company's lines to Chicago and return, at the time of the annual meeting of stockholders, was reconsidered and amended so as to read as follows:

RESOLVED, That, until the further order of this Board, there may be issued, to each holder of one or more

shares of the capital stock of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, as registered on the books of the company, a ticket enabling him, or her, to travel free over the company's lines from the station on the Illinois Central Railroad nearest to his or her registered address, to Chicago and return, for the purpose of attending, in person, the meetings of stockholders. Such ticket to be good for the journey to Chicago only during the four days immediately preceding, and the day of the meeting, and for the return journey from Chicago only on the day of the meeting, and the four days immediately following, when properly counter-signed

and stamped during business hours—that is to say, between 9.00 a. m. and 5.00 p. m.—in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Mr. W. G. Bruen, in Chicago. Such tickets may be obtained by any registered holder of stock on application, in writing to the President of the Company in Chicago. Each application must state the full name and address of the stockholder exactly as given in his or her certificate of stock, together with the number and date of such certificate. No more than one person will be carried free in respect to any one holding of stock as registered on the book of the Company.

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To Stop Falling

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To Beautify the

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By order of the Board of Directors.  
A. G. HACKSTAFF,  
Secretary.

The next annual meeting of the stockholders of the Illinois Central Railroad Company will be held at the office of the Company, in Chicago, on Wednesday, September 26, 1900, at noon. For the purpose of this meeting, the Stock Transfer Books will be closed from the close of business on September 11 to the morning of September 27.

## Church Directory.

M. E. CHURCH.—W. C. Wilson, pastor. Services first and third Sundays at 11 a. m. and at 7:30 p. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday evening, Sunday school at 9:30.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH.—I. H. Teel, pastor. Services second and fourth Sundays at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sunday school at 9:30. Prayer meeting, Wednesday evenings at 7:30.

M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH.—R. M. Wheat, pastor. Services first and third Sundays at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sunday school at 9:30. Prayer meeting, Tuesday evenings at 7:30 o'clock.

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH.—Alex. McChord, pastor. Services third Saturday night, Sunday and Sunday night. Sunday school at 9:30. Prayer meeting, Monday evenings at 7:30 o'clock.

Y. P. S. C. E.—Prayer meeting every Sunday evening at 8:30.

CATHOLIC CHURCH.—Rev. A. M. Coenen, pastor. First Mass, Sunday morning at 7 o'clock; Second Mass, 9:30 o'clock. Afternoon service at 2:30 every Sunday.

GENERAL BAPTIST CHURCH.—William Childers, pastor. Services every third Sunday at 11 o'clock a. m., and at 7:30 p. m.

## A GREAT CAMPAIGN OFFER.

The Weekly American, the Leading Southern Weekly, Till Oct. 5, 1900.

And A Guess in a \$250 Corn Guessing Contest For Only Ten Cents—Watches Free.

Send 10 cents to The Weekly American, Nashville, Tenn., and you will be sent the Weekly, the leading weekly of the South, till October 5, 1900. You can also have a guess in the \$250 corn guessing contest. Guess number of grains on an average size ear of white Indian corn, length 8½ inches; diameter at large end 5½ inches; in middle, 2½ inches; at small end, 2¼ inches. To the subscriber or subscribers naming the correct or nearest correct number of grains on the ear we will give \$250 in cash. If more than one correct guess the amount will be equally divided. The ear of corn has been placed in the American National Bank, unhusked and under seal. Contest closes August 4. Guesses must be sent in same letter with subscription.

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